

## IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Fuel cell unit, comprising: a cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, a contact plate in electrically conductive contact with the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, and a fluid guiding element being formed as a shaped sheet metal part and connected to the contact plate in a fluid-tight manner, wherein the fluid guiding element is provided with at least one fluid port in a fluid guiding area of the fluid guiding element to which the electrolyte of the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit does not extend, said fluid port forming a part of a fluid channel which extends through the fuel cell unit parallel to a stacking direction and which does not pass through the electrolyte of the ~~cathode-anode-electrolyte unit~~ cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, wherein the fluid guiding element is formed in one piece and provided with a fluid supply channel opening and with a fluid discharge channel opening, enabling a fluid to flow from said fluid supply channel opening through said fuel cell unit to said fluid discharge channel opening, and wherein the fluid guiding element is connected to the contact plate in an electrically conductive manner.

2. -31. (canceled)

32.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit is arranged on the fluid guiding element.

33.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact plate is designed as a shaped sheet metal part.

34.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the fluid guiding element and the contact plate are connected to one another by laser welding or by electron beam welding or by hard soldering.

USSN 10/674,202

35.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the fluid guiding element has an opening for the passage of contact elements to the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit.

36.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the fluid guiding element abuts on the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit via an electrically insulating seal.

37.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 36, wherein the seal comprises mica.

38.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 36, wherein the seal comprises a flat seal.

39.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined claim 36, wherein the seal comprises a coating on at least one of the fluid guiding element and the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit.

40.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit and the fluid guiding element are biased elastically against one another.

41.(canceled)

42.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell unit comprises an electrically insulating fluid channel seal, the contact plate of the fuel cell unit abutting on the fluid guiding element of an adjacent fuel cell unit via said seal.

USSN 10/674,202

43.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell unit comprises a fluid channel seal, the fluid guiding element of the fuel cell unit abutting on the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit via said seal.

44.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a coating on at least one of the fluid guiding element and the contact plate.

45.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a flat seal.

46.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises at least two separate sealing elements.

47.(withdrawn) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a slide fit sealing.

48.(withdrawn) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a material viscous at the operating temperature of the fuel cell unit.

49.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells, comprising a plurality of fuel cell units as defined in claim 1, said units following one another along a stacking direction.

50.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 49, wherein the composite block of fuel cells comprises at least one clamping element for bracing the fuel cell units against one another.

51.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 50, wherein the composite block of fuel cells comprises two end plates adapted to be braced against one another by means of the clamping element.

USSN 10/674,202

52.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 51, wherein at least one of the end plates has at least one fluid port.

53.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 49, wherein the fluid guiding element of at least one of the fuel cell units is connected to the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit by way of flanging.

54.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 53, wherein a flange fold area engaging around the contact plate of the adjacent fuel cell unit is formed on the fluid guiding element of at least one of the fuel cell units.

55.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cell as defined in claim 54, wherein an electrically insulating fluid channel seal is arranged between the flange fold area and the contact plate of the adjacent fuel cell unit.

56.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit is held between the fluid guiding element and the contact plate.

57.(currently amended) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 48 43, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a solder glass.

58.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said fluid guiding element and said contact plate form a two-part shell surrounding said cathode-anode-electrolyte unit of the fuel cell unit.

USSN 10/674,202

59.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, further comprising an electrically insulating fluid channel seal arranged between the contact plate of the fuel cell unit and the fluid guiding element of an adjacent fuel cell unit or between the fluid guiding element of the fuel cell unit and the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit, said fluid channel seal surrounding a fluid port provided in the fluid guiding element or a fluid port provided in the contact plate and said fluid channel seal being spaced apart from the electrolyte of the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit of the fuel cell unit.

60.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said fluid guiding element forms a boundary of a fluid chamber having fluid flowing through it during operation of the fuel cell unit.

61.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said fluid guiding element is connected to the contact plate by way of welding or by way of soldering.

62.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 1, wherein said fluid guiding element and said contact plate define therebetween a fluid chamber having a combustible gas or an oxidation agent flowing through it during operation of the fuel cell unit.

USSN 10/674,202

63.(currently amended) Fuel cell unit, comprising: a cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, a contact plate in electrically conductive contact with the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit, and a fluid guiding element being formed as a shaped sheet metal part and connected to the contact plate in a fluid-tight and electrically conductive manner, said fluid guiding element having an opening for the passage of contact elements arranged on a contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit to the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit of the fuel cell unit, wherein the fluid guiding element is formed in one piece and provided with a fluid supply channel opening and with a fluid discharge channel opening, enabling a fluid to flow from said fluid supply channel opening through said fuel cell unit to said fluid discharge channel opening, and wherein the fluid guiding element is connected to the contact plate in an electrically conductive manner.

64.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit is arranged on the fluid guiding element.

65.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the contact plate is designed as a shaped sheet metal part.

66.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the fluid guiding element and the contact plate are connected to one another by laser welding or by electron beam welding or by hard soldering.

67.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the fluid guiding element has an opening for the passage of contact elements to the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit.

68.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the fluid guiding element abuts on the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit via an electrically insulating seal.

USSN 10/674,202

69.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 68, wherein the seal comprises mica.

70.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 68, wherein the seal comprises a flat seal.

71.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 68, wherein the seal comprises a coating on at least one of the fluid guiding element and the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit.

72.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit and the fluid guiding element are biased elastically against one another.

73.(canceled)

74.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the fuel cell unit comprises an electrically insulating fluid channel seal, the contact plate of the fuel cell unit abutting on the fluid guiding element of an adjacent fuel cell unit via said seal.

75.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the fuel cell unit comprises a fluid channel seal, the fluid guiding element of the fuel cell unit abutting on the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit via said seal.

76.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a coating on at least one of the fluid guiding element and the contact plate.

USSN 10/674,202

77.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a flat seal.

78.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises at least two separate sealing elements.

79.(withdrawn) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a slide fit sealing.

80.(withdrawn) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a material viscous at the operating temperature of the fuel cell unit.

81.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells, comprising a plurality of fuel cell units as defined in claim 63, said units following one another along a stacking direction.

82.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 81, wherein the composite block of fuel cells comprises at least one clamping element for bracing the fuel cell units against one another.

83.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 82, wherein the composite block of fuel cells comprises two end plates adapted to be braced against one another by means of the clamping element.

84.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 83, wherein at least one of the end plates has at least one fluid port.

85.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 81, wherein the fluid guiding element of at least one of the fuel cell units is connected to the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit by way of flanging.



USSN 10/674,202

86.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 85, wherein a flange fold area engaging around the contact plate of the adjacent fuel cell unit is formed on the fluid guiding element of at least one of the fuel cell units.

87.(withdrawn) Composite block of fuel cells as defined in claim 86, wherein an electrically insulating fluid channel seal is arranged between the flange fold area and the contact plate of the adjacent fuel cell unit.

88.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit is held between the fluid guiding element and the contact plate.

89.(currently amended) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim ~~80~~ 75, wherein the fluid channel seal comprises a solder glass.

90.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein said fluid guiding element and said contact plate form a two-part shell surrounding said cathode-anode-electrolyte unit of the fuel cell unit.

91.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, further comprising an electrically insulating fluid channel seal arranged between the contact plate of the fuel cell unit and the fluid guiding element of an adjacent fuel cell unit or between the fluid guiding element of the fuel cell unit and the contact plate of an adjacent fuel cell unit, said fluid channel seal surrounding a fluid port provided in the fluid guiding element or a fluid port provided in the contact plate and said fluid channel seal being spaced apart from the electrolyte of the cathode-anode-electrolyte unit of the fuel cell unit.

92.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein said fluid guiding element forms a boundary of a fluid chamber having fluid flowing through it during operation of the fuel cell unit.

USSN 10/674,202

93.(previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein said fluid guiding element is connected to the contact plate by way of welding or by way of soldering.

94. (previously presented) Fuel cell unit as defined in claim 63, wherein said fluid guiding element and said contact plate define therebetween a fluid chamber having a combustible gas or an oxidant agent flowing through it during operation of the fuel cell unit.